

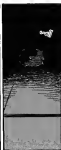


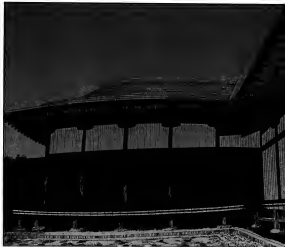
Chapter 4

The One-Legged God

第四話

片足神











MORE THAN
300,000
SOLDIERS
HAVE DIED
FROM
DISEASE
ALONE...

IT'S
FREEZING
COLD, THERE'S
NO FOOD, AND
THERE AREN'T
EVEN ENOUGH
BULLETS.



OH SURE,
EVERYBODY HERE
IS CELEBRATING
JAPAN'S VICTORIES,
BUT THE REALITY
OF WAR WOULD
HORRIFY YOU.

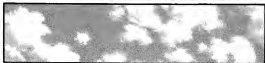














BUT I
DON'T WANT
TO WRITE
GHOST
STORIES!

THIS IS THE
SITE OF A
GHOST STORY
THAT'S GOTTEN
POPULAR
LATELY!



ACCORDING TO
THE GHOST
STORY, A MONK
ON A PILGRIMAGE
WAS ROBBED AND
MURDERED LONG
AGO. HIS BODY
WAS BURIED
UNDER THE
FLOORBOARDS OF
THIS HOUSE.

I BELIEVE
THAT HE MAY
HAVE BEEN
KILLED BY THE
EVIL SPIRIT
THAT HAUNTS
THIS PLACE.



I'VE READ
ALL OF
IZUMI
KYOUKA-
SENSEI'S
NOVELS!

OOH, I
LOVE
GHOST
STORIES!



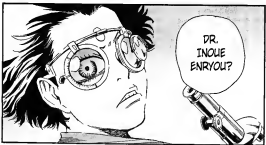
I ENJOY
GHOST
STORIES
TOO, BUT
THIS ONE
IS REAL.

THE
OTHER DAY,
A YOUNG
SURGEON
WAS
MURDERED
HERE.

















CHALLENGE
ACCEPTED.

THEN
I'LL USE
SCIENCE
TO FIND
THE
REAL
KILLER!

IF YOU KEEP
INSISTING
THAT THE
KILLER WAS
A YOKAI OR
A GHOST OR
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...



I'LL
TAKE THAT
CHALLENGE
TOO!

てん



WHOA,
MITSUKA-
KUN, WHAT
ARE YOU
GETTING INTO
NOW...?



I'M SASAYAMA
ZANGOU, THE
DETECTIVE MONK...
AND I'LL SOLVE
THIS MYSTERY
BEFORE EITHER OF
YOU ASSHOLES
DO!

THE WHOLE
CITY'S
TALKING
ABOUT
THESE
RUMORS.





THIS IS A MATTER OF PRIDE NOW. I WON'T LOSE, EVEN IF I HAVE TO FAKE MY OWN SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA.



NOW, YOU'RE SO PALE! YOU LOOK LIKE A LITTLE GIRL!



MAYBE "DOCTOR
YUKKA" WAS
RIGHT, AND THE
KILLER WAS
JUST SOME
RANDOM THIEF?



IT'S
NO GOOD
...



OR MAYBE
IT WAS A
TENGLU OR A
KAPPA... OR
MAYBE A
MURAMON
...



NO, IT
MUST
HAVE BEEN
A GHOST
OR AN EVIL
SPIRIT...



YEAH...
BUT...

STARE

STARE

OOH,
THAT'S RIGHT.
YALCHI-KUN,
YOU GET
BRUISES
WHENEVER
SPIRITS
TOUCH YOU,
RIGHT?



THERE'S
NO WAY
HE'S GOING
TO JUST
ACCEPT
LOSING TO
INQUE-SAN.

WHY IS
HE SUCH A
STUBBORN
ASSHOLE?



FORGET
ABOUT
IT...



Jaume



BUT
WHAT
?



I DON'T
KNOW,
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
IT IS?

WHAT
IS IT?



HEY,
COME
LOOK AT
THIS!

MAT-
SUOKA-
KUN!



IT KINDA
TASTES LIKE
RICE FLOUR
TOO...



ouch



IT
LOOKS LIKE
FLOUR OR
SOMETHING

BUT I
THOUGHT
THAT NOBODY
WAS LIVING
HERE?





IT'S BEEN
A WHILE,
MORI-
SENSEI.

I HEARD THAT
YOU'D BECOME A
BUREAUCRAT.
AND NOW IT
SEEMS THAT
YOU'RE PLAYING
DETECTIVE.



WAS
THERE
SOMETHING
YOU
WANTED
...?

...WELL,
I MIGHT AS
WELL GET
STRAIGHT TO
THE POINT.



glare



OOOOH!
NO WAY!
THAT'S
MORI
OGUNAI?



huh!

maybe
maybe!



THE OTHER DAY, A DOCTOR NAMED TAKAHATA KENICHIROU WAS MURDERED. THE KILLER'S IDENTITY IS STILL UNKNOWN.



WELL THAT'S CERTAINLY OUT OF THE BLUE...



MORI-SENSEI, I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO MIGHT HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU.



TAKAHATA WAS FORMERLY PART OF THE ARMY FIRST DIVISION MEDICAL CORPS... AND SINCE YOU WERE THE SURGEON GENERAL, THAT MEANS THAT HE SERVED UNDER YOU.



DO YOU REMEMBER HIM?



I DID SOME RESEARCH AND LEARNED THAT HE WAS WORKING ON A DRUG FOR THE TREATMENT OF BERBERI STRICKEN SOLDIERS COULD DRINK HIS FORMULA AND RETURN TO THE BATTLEFIELD...





...SO THIS DR. TAKAHATA REALIZED THE ARMY'S BLUNDER, AND WAS SECRETLY TRYING TO FIX IT ON HIS OWN...?



THAT'S BECAUSE THIS MAN, THE WESTERN-EDUCATED DR. MORE, SAID IT WAS BACTERIAL...



...THE ARMY THOUGHT THAT BERIBERI WAS DUE TO BACTERIA, THOUGH...



...BUT THEN HE WAS MURDERED.



that's very stupid...



...PERHAPS I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR SAYING THAT YOU WERE JUST PLAYING DETECTIVE.



MAYBE THERE WERE SOME SOLDIERS WHO RESENTED BEING CURED AND FORCED TO RETURN TO BATTLE?



THE
WRITTEN THEIR
NAMES HERE.
PERHAPS THE
KILLER IS
AMONG THEM.

I DO HAVE
ENEMIES WHO
WOULD LIKE
TO SEE MY
SERVITION
TARNISHED...
PERHAPS THE
KILLER IS AMONG
THEM.

THANK
YOU, SIR.



ONE MORE
THING,
MATSUOKA-
KUN...



I DO
TEND TO
CHALLENGE
AUTHORITY.

WELL...



THE WORLD OF
SCIENCE MAKES
PROGRESS EVERY DAY,
BUT PEOPLE CHANGE
SLOWLY. THE ORDER
TO FEED THE SOLDIERS
A RICE-BASED DIET
CAME FROM THE
EMPEROR HIMSELF.
YOU'RE CHALLENGING
HIS AUTHORITY.



YEAH... MORI-SAN GAVE US THE NAMES OF SOME OF HIS ENEMIES... LOOKS LIKE ONE LIVES NEARBY.

WE MIGHT AS WELL ABANDON THE IDEA THAT IT WAS JUST A SIMPLE ROBBERY GONE WRONG. IT SEEMS LIKE THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT THE DOCTOR WAS MURDERED BY SOMEONE WHO WANTED TO EXPOSE MORI-SAN'S DEADLY FUCK-UP.

OOH, I'VE NEVER SEEN A CRIMINAL ARREST BEFORE!



ANYWAY ...



...WHAT'S WRONG NOW, MITSUOKA-KUN?



SIGH ...



THAT'S YOUR OWN DAMNED FAULT!!

I CAN ALMOST HEAR THAT BASTARD DOGIE LAUGHING AT ME...



WHAT IF THIS REALLY IS JUST A NORMAL MURDER? WE HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE YOUNG YET - NOT EVEN SO MUCH AS AN ADULT-ARM.

IT'S NO GOOD...







THEY'VE
EVEN
CONFESSED
TO THE
MURDER!

TOO BAD!
USING THE
PRINCIPLES OF
SCIENCE AND
RATIONALITY,
I'VE ALREADY
CAUGHT THE
CRIMINALS!



OH, BUT YOU
WERE SOOOOO
SURE THAT
THE KILLER
WAS A YOKAI,
WEREN'T YOU?

LET ME
GUESS -
YOU'VE FOUND
THE MEN WHO
MURDERED
THE DOCTOR?

HMPH!



JUST GIVE
IT UP!

I...
WELL...

ARE YOU
STILL GOING TO
INSIST THAT THE
KILLER WAS A
YOKAI OR A
GHOST?



WHERE
ARE
THEY?
LET ME
TALK TO
THEM!

We just
helped
digging a
deeper hole...

WHAT IF
THEY WERE
JUST BEING
MANIPULATED
BY EVIL
SPIRITS?!



WHAT
IF?



WELL
OBVIOUSLY
THEY WEREN'T
THE REAL
KILLERS!!



FINE, I
WILL!

FINE, WHAT-
EVER. IF YOU
WANT TO GO
CHASING AFTER
GHOSTS, GO
RIGHT AHEAD!



HAHAHAHA!
THAT'S
RIGHT!

HAHAHAHA!
OH MY
GOD,
YOU'RE
SERIOUS,
AREN'T
YOU?



YES
SIR!

LET'S GO,
SUZUKI-KUN.
WE'VE
WASTED
ENOUGH TIME
ON THESE
IDIOTS.



...
HUSH?

EXCUSE ME,
BUT I'D LIKE TO
INTERVIEW THE
TWO SUSPECTS
THAT YOU
ARRESTED
EARLIER TODAY.



THE REAL
KILLER...



I TOLD
YOU, WE'RE
GOING TO
FIND THE
KILLER!

...
WHAT ARE
WE GOING TO
DO NOW,
MATEBUKA-
KUN?



HEY, YOU TWO!!



HEY, WAIT!!

I JUST WANT TO TALK TO THEM!



YEP.
WE DID.



DID YOU
REALLY
KILL THAT
DOCTOR?



ARE YOU SURE
THAT SOMEONE -
OR SOMETHING -
ELSE WASN'T
MANIPULATING
YOU...?

THAT
WAS
TOO
EASY...





WE ADMIT
THAT WE
KILLED A MAN.
BUT WE'RE NOT
MURDERERS.
WE'RE
PATRIOTS.

WE HAD TO
EXPOSE THE
TRUTH ABOUT
THE ARMY'S
COVER-UP TO
THE PUBLIC.



TOH! WE JUST
WANTED TO GET
REVENGE ON
MORI RINTAROU.
NOBODY WAS
MANIPULATING US
OR ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

WE KNEW
WE'D GET
CAUGHT, AND
WE DIDN'T
CARE.



SO IT WAS
NOTHING MORE
THAN A POLITICALLY
MOTIVATED
KILLING... DAMN
THAT CLEVER
BASTARD.

AH... I
SEE.



WHAT
WAS
THAT?



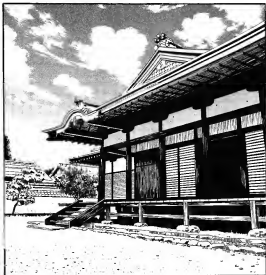
YOU
SHOULD
TALK TO
THE GUY
WHO LIVES
THERE.

BUT STILL,
WHY KILL A
MAN IN A
SO-CALLED
"HAUNTED
HOUSE...?"



I SAID THAT
YOU SHOULD
TALK TO THE
GUY WHO
LIVES IN THAT
HOUSE.











SPEECH-BUBBLE



SPEECH-BUBBLE



SPEECH-BUBBLE











SFX: "CLANG!"



SFX: "STRACK!"

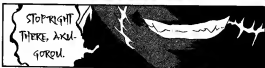


SFX: "MISS MISS MISS MISS!"



SFX: "HISSESSSSSS!"







SFX: "stomp"



SFX: "stomp"



WE MEET
AGAIN!!



I'M
SANMOTO
GOROUZA-
EMON,
THE REAL
DEMON KING!

ずん









SERIOUSLY,
WHAT THE
HELL
HAPPENED
BACK
THERE?



MYO-
SHI...?

I WONDER
IF BUILDING
MATERIALS FOR
THAT HOUSE WERE
BROUGHT FROM
THE TOWN OF
MYOUSHI IN
HIROSHIMA
PREFECTURE...



"INOUE MONONOKKE ROKU"
IS THE STORY OF A BOY
NAMED INOUE HEITAROU
WHO LIVES IN MYOUSHI.
YOUKAI AND DEMONS TRY
TO SCARE HIM EVERY
NIGHT, BUT HE STAYS
FEARLESS. FINALLY, THE
LEADER OF THE YOUKAI
SURRENDERS TO HIM IN
DEFEAT!

OOOH, I
KNOW
THAT
ONE!



THERE'S A SIMILAR
STORY IN "INOUE
MONONOKKE ROKU,"
A COLLECTION OF
EDO PERIOD TALES
THAT WAS
POPULARIZED BY
HIRATA
ATSUTANE.





WHEN I SAW
INOUE-SAN'S
MOVIE PROJECTOR,
IT GAVE ME A
GREAT IDEA...

OH NO HE
DIDN'T...



HEEEY!
COME
LOOK AT
THIS!



WHAT
THE...



HEY,
GUYS,
WAIT!!

LET'S
GO.



I'M
NOT EVEN
SURPRISED
...

YOU
THINK WE'D
WANT TO
SEE
THAT?!



NO ONE
WANTS
TO SEE
THAT.

COME ON, IT'S
REALLY COOL!
NOW YOU CAN
APPRECIATE MY
AWESOMENESS
ON A BIG
SCREEN!



HERE,
YOU CAN
HAVE
THIS.

OH,
WHAT
IS IT,
YAICHIKUN?



MICHIYO-
CHAN,
LET'S
GO!

OKAY-
!



OOH,
ISN'T IT
CUTE?

UH-
HUA.

Translator's Notes

151 The "Japan Panorama Museum" was a popular attraction in late 1880s/early 1900s Tokyo that was based on similar European panoramas. A panorama (sometimes called a "cyclorama" in the US) is a huge, 360-degree illusion painted on the walls of a round building. Before the invention of movie theaters, panoramas were incredibly popular entertainment for common people. They generally depicted battles, travel scenery, or pathetic themes. When the Japan Panorama Museum opened in Tokyo, it showed images of the American Civil War. Because panoramas were immersive, exciting and frequently bloody, they were surprisingly controversial in the 1880s/1900s - people feared that this form of lowbrow art for the masses would lead to violence, or that uneducated people would be unable to tell reality from the fantasy world of the panoramas. Criticisms of pop culture never change, huh?

154 Their eyes look weird and sparkly because they're parodying classic shoujo romance manga

157 More historical figure namedropping! Irumi Ryuka was an eccentric novelist whose surreal, supernatural novels differed from the "naturalistic" style that was en vogue at the time. His vivid supernatural metaphors were used to criticize modern society. He's probably one of my favorite classic Japanese writers.

161 Oh hey, more namedropping. Inoue Enryou was a philosopher whose crusade against superstition had a huge effect on modern Buddhism - and on Japanese nationalist propaganda. He saw religion as a philosophical tool for spreading morality, patriotism and reverence towards the Emperor. As a professor at Teiyō University, he (like Matsuo Kuno) began to catalogue folk tales and paranormal stories. But unlike Matsuo, who saw folklore as the soul of the country, Inoue was focused on debunking old myths to prove that Buddhism was compatible with modern science. Although he was a skeptic, his obsession with the paranormal earned him the nickname "Dr. Youkai."

162 The "idiot ghost hunter kid from Iwate" is probably a reference to Kōmura Rados, the creator of the famous "Zengata Heiji" series of detective novels. The Zengata from the Lupin III anime is based on him.

171 Dr. Mori Ougai (AKA Mori Rintarō) was an early 20th century novelist who also served as Surgeon General of the Japanese army. As a doctor, he tried to bring a more modern, scientific approach to military medicine. As a writer, he dealt with themes of sex, self-destruction and social change. He started an influential literary society that brought together many of the best novelists and poets of his time. Incidentally, Mori's daughter, Mori Mari, was also a writer, and her stories of lush, tragic affairs between men influenced yaoi manga during the 70s.

173 The vitamin deficiency known as "beriberi" killed millions of people throughout Japanese history. Caused by a lack of thiamine (vitamin B1), beriberi leads to pain, weakness, paralysis, mental/emotional disturbances, heart failure and death. White rice contains very little thiamine, so people who could afford to eat a "wealthy" diet of white rice actually suffered more than the poor, who ate a variety of grains. There was disagreement over the cause of beriberi - many, like Dr. Mori Ougai, believed that it was a bacterial infection. In the late 1880s, Dr. Takaki Kanehiro realized that beriberi was actually caused by a poor diet. Beriberi was common among sailors in the Japanese Navy, who were given free rice. Takaki successfully advocated for a more varied diet for the Navy, but the Army continued to eat mostly rice. Even after people "knew" the true cause of beriberi, it was very difficult to change their eating habits. White rice was seen as a "high quality" food, so even the Emperor ordered that soldiers be fed rice instead of "low quality" wheat (which contains thiamine). Vitamin supplements were invented in the 1910s.

176 An *azuki-aoi* (bean washer) is a low-level river yokai that makes a sound like azuki beans being washed in water. When the yokai's victim goes to the river to investigate, the yokai will drown them.